



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 114th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 162

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2016

No. 10

House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, January 25, 2016, at 2 p.m.

Senate

TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2016

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Infinite Spirit, Your thoughts are too high for us to comprehend, and Your ways are past finding out. You transform our discordant notes into harmony as Your goodness and mercy pursue us.

Abide with our Senators. Lord, give them the insight to discern truth from falsehood, the high from the low, and the enduring from the transient. Impart to them a perspective that will enable them to find the right path.

God, bless America. May we not forget that without You, no nation can long endure.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HOEVEN). The majority leader is recognized.

AMERICAN SAFE ACT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, it is clear that many Americans are concerned about the administration's ability to properly vet thousands of individuals from Syria and Iraq. Elected officials in both parties have expressed concern, too, as have administration officials. That is why many Americans are asking us to take a step back and press pause on the program so we can ensure that we have the correct policies and security screenings actually in place. The Senate will consider balanced, bipartisan legislation tomorrow to do just that.

Passing the American SAFE Act, which the House has already done with a bipartisan veto-proof margin, would show Americans that their concerns are being heard here in Washington. The aim is to ensure that we have facts first so we can help advance America's tradition of compassion and address the legitimate concerns of her citizens at the same time.

I will have more to say on this legislation tomorrow, but I urge colleagues across the aisle to treat this issue with the seriousness it deserves. This debate should be driven by facts and common sense and not fear mongering about targeting widows and orphans or other straw man arguments the White House has made from time to time. Americans deserve a vetting process they can have confidence in, and frankly the refugees coming to this country deserve one too. Safeguards that weed out ISIL sympathizers can help ensure legitimate refugees to our country are not unfairly stigmatized.

The American people are concerned and looking to us to lead with both safety and compassion. I am calling on colleagues to help us do so tomorrow by advancing this balanced and bipartisan legislation.

MEETING WITH THE PRIME MINISTER OF AUSTRALIA

Mr. MCCONNELL. Also, Mr. President, later this afternoon I will be meeting with Malcolm Turnbull, the Prime Minister of one of our closest allies, Australia. Our alliance with Canberra is an important one, and our countries share many fundamental values. I am looking forward to meeting the Prime Minister.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The minority leader is recognized.

NUCLEAR DEAL WITH IRAN

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I will have more to say tomorrow about the legislation about which the Republican leader just spoke. Tomorrow afternoon we will have a vote as to whether we should move to the bill.

Along with the rest of the world, I was pleased to learn this weekend that five political prisoners were finally released from Iran and will soon be home with their families. These Americans were unjustly held, and I am glad they will soon be in the arms of their loved ones once again.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.